

Message Text

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51 63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-03

SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-20 EB-11 HEW-08 DRC-01 /165 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6255

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5130

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR, UN, SREF

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 4888

1. FOLLOWING ARE BEST AVAILABLE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY SEN. KENNEDY'S OFFICE AS REPORTED IN REFTEL.
2. UNHCR AND ICRC DO NOT RPT NOT OPERATE RECEPTION CENTERS. THESE CENTERS WHICH ARE ALSO REFERRED TO, BUT NOT BY THE GOVT., AS SAFEHAVENS, ARE OPERATED SOLEY BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AID TO REFUGEES WHICH RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE FROM UNHCR. APPROXIMATELY 800 REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN COMMITTEE-OPERATED SAFEHAVENS IN SANTIAGO AND ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY. BY AGREEMENT WITH GOC ONLY REFUGEES (BY DEFINITION FOREIGN NATIONALS) ARE ALLOWED TO RESIDE IN SAFEHAVENS. EXCEPTION HAS BEEN MADE ONLY IN TWO CASES WHERE CHILEAN HUSBANDS OF RUSSIAN WIVES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO STAY WITH THEIR SPOUSES OWING TO LANGUAGE PROBLEM.
3. ON OCT 18GOVT GRANTED APPROVAL TO FIRST 200 APPLICATIONS FOR SAFECONDUCTS FOR DEPARTURE FROM CHILE WHICH HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCESSED BY COMMITTEE. MOST OF 200 RESIDENT IN SAFEHAVENS

THOUGH SOME ARE RESIDING OUTSIDE OF REFUGES. ACCORDING TO COMMITTEE CONTACT SAFECONDUCT FOR ONE OF FIRST 200 WAS NOT GRANTED OWING TO WHAT SHE TERMED "TECHNICAL" AND NOT "POLITICAL" PROBLEM. COMMITTEE SUBCOMMISSION ON RESETTLEMENT NOW APPROACHING EMBASSIES OF NATIONS TO WHICH REFUGEES HAVE INDICATED DESIRE TO EMIGRATE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF VISAS.

4. DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE HOW MANY REFUGEES HAVE LEFT CHILE. MINFONRELS OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF OCT 18 THAT AS OF OCT 16 GOVT HAD ISSUED 1671 SAFECONDUCTS TO EMBASSY ASYLEES AND ANOTHER 3,100 SAFECONDUCTS TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN "GUESTS" OF EMBASSIES BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS NOT REFERRED TO AS ASYLEES. MINISTRY OFFICIAL ESTIMATED THAT AROUND 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL SAFECONDUCTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO FOREIGNERS. HOWEVER, IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE WHAT PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGNERS WERE IN FACT REFUGEES RESIDING IN CHILE, I.E. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD LEFT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR REASONS OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED POLITICAL, SOCIAL, OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. PROBABLE THAT MANY WERE SIMPLY STUDENTS, TOURISTS, WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN, ETC., WHO WERE IN CHILE AS OF SEPT 11. THIS PROBABILITY BOLSTERED BY FACT THAT LARGE NUMBERS HAVE CHOSEN TO RETURN TO HOME COUNTRIES.

5. ACCORDING TO GOVT 119 SAFECONDUCT REQUESTS WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY OCT 16 HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACTED UPON. SIXTY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED ARE IDENTIFIED AS FORMER HIGH LEVEL UP GOVT OFFICIALS WHOSE CASES ARE BEING REVIEWED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE WANTED FOR "COMMON CRIMES." GOVT HAS STATED IT WILL RESPECT INTERNATIONAL NORMS REGARDING ASYLUM. ACCORDING TO ONE GOVT STATEMENT THE EXTRADITION OF THREE INDIVIDUALS, SOCIALIST PARTY SEC GEN ALTAMIRANO, REVOLUTIONARY LEFT MOVEMENT (MIR) LEADER MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ AND POPULAR ACTION UNITARY MOVEMENT (MAPU) SEC GEN GARRETON WILL BE SOLICITED IF THEY REQUEST ASYLUM IN EMBASSIES. GARRETON IS REPORTEDLY IN THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER GOVT INTENTION IS TO ATTEMPT TO EXTRADITE DIRECTLY FROM EMBASSY.

6. GOVT HAS RELEASED NO TOTAL FIGURES ON EXECUTIONS. HOWEVER, UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TOTAL TAKEN FROM PRESS REPORTS INDICATES CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT APPROXIMATELY 75 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO SUMMARY EXECUTION WHILE CAUGHT PERFORMING TERRORIST ACTS SUCH AS RAILROAD DYNAMITING. MAJORITY HAVE BEEN TRIED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS OPERATING UNDER NORMS OF MILITARY CODE OF JUSTICE. ANOTHER 35 DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS OF INDIVIDUALS ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM MILITARY OR POLICE CUSTODY.

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